

21. A method of dilating tissue using a surgical device having a dilating element of fixed size disposed near a transparent tapered tip, comprising:

incising skin overlying tissue to be dilated;

inserting the surgical device into the incision; and

advancing the device and concurrently visualizing the tissue and dilating the tissue responsive to the advancement of the device.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the specification to update the status of the applications referenced in the first paragraph on page 1 entitled "Related Application". Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 to reflect the prosecution of the parent case of this application.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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